



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Tucson Fire Department

Fire Chief Dan Newburn



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### Pool Fencing- An Important Layer of Protection

If you own a swimming pool within Tucson City Limits it is your responsibility to ensure that it is properly secured. Pool fencing offers one layer of protection for your children and any other child that may wander into your yard. If a child enters your yard and is injured in an improperly secured pool, you are responsible. Knowing the basics of the pool fencing code is one important step to keeping your family safe.

#### Enclosure and Barrier Requirements

Pools need to be secured by an enclosure and barrier that completely surrounds the perimeter of the pool and meets the following minimum requirements:

- The pool must be entirely enclosed by a 5-foot wall or fence as measured from the exterior side of the fence
- The enclosure may not contain openings, footholds or handholds that can be used to climb the fence
- There cannot be any openings that allow a spherical object more than 4" in diameter to pass
- The wall or fence should be at least 20" from the waters edge

#### Types of Enclosures and Walls

Barriers, enclosures, fences and walls are not child proof and can not be relied on to prevent drowning. They do however offer one additional layer of protection and can buy you valuable time should you loose track of your child. Enclosures and walls should meet the following minimum requirements to effectively serve this role.

- Solid Walls- should not contain indentations or protrusions that may assist children in scaling the wall
- Wrought Iron or similar fencing - Horizontal components should be spaced at least 45" apart and vertical components should be spaced at least 1 ¾" apart.
- Chain Link- should have a mesh size that measures 2 ¼" inch across with slats fastened securely to the top that reduce the opening to 1 ¾"
- Lattice Fencing- the openings of the lattice should be no more than 1 ¾" in diameter

#### Gates

- Gates for the enclosure should be self-closing and self-latching.
- The latch should be 54" above the ground on the pool side of the gate
- The release mechanism should be no more than 5" below the top of the gate
- All pool gates must open outward

#### Basic Maintenance

Pool fencing needs to be checked and maintained just like any other part of your home. To prevent a lapse in security, be sure to do the following:

- Remove items either temporary or permanent, that may assist children in climbing the fence
- Check the bottom perimeter of the fence for erosion that may allow a child to slide under the fence
- As you check the equipment, think like a child. How could you go over, under, through or around the fence
- Test the gate by opening it 12" and releasing. It should swing closed on its own power and latch completely.

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